Chairman’s Report

Chairman Smith called the regular meeting of the Board of Regents to order at 8 a.m.

Chairman Smith reminded everyone that there would not be a meeting held in July, and that the next meeting of the Board will be held on August 25, 2009.

Chairman Smith then called for a report from Mr. Derek Collins, student representative to the Board.

Mr. Collins reported that he had met with leaders of various HSSU student organizations including the Student Government Association, President, Miss Harris-Stowe, Kiersten Burns and the Collegiate 100. He stated that Ms. Burns would be participating in a conference for HBCU Kings and Queens on July 9-12 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and that the Student Government President Fallon Dupard is researching possible organizations on Harris-Stowe’s campus. Mr. Collins then shared a variety of upcoming events that will be sponsored by student organizations on Harris-Stowe’s campus. He then stated that several events have also been planned for the University’s fall 2009 Welcome Week, which is a week of “icebreakers” and fun-filled activities to help students become acclimated with campus life.

President’s Report

President Givens reported that this was the last meeting of the Board of Regents for the fiscal year, and that it has been difficult because of the state of the national economy. He stated that he is most proud of the management and staff at HSSU because the University has managed without “laying off” anyone. He further stated that Harris-Stowe understands the importance of keeping families together, but that incompetence will not be tolerated. He then stated that the expansion committee has worked very hard under the leadership of Constance Gully, who has done an outstanding job overseeing the new $17.5 million Early Childhood Development/Parenting Education Center. He also reported that the University has been working with the Council on Public Higher Education, the Coordinating Board for Higher Education and legislators in Jefferson City on budgets and capital improvements. He added that the University is waiting for Governor Nixon to sign off on the Hubert Wheeler facility. President Givens noted that overall, Harris-Stowe State University has had a good year, and has had the fortune of educating many young people. He further noted that enrollment and attendance at HSSU is at its highest, there is a need for another dormitory; and that University Divisions are on target with the Five-Year Strategic Plan. He then expressed his appreciation for the ongoing support of the Board of Regents.

President Givens reported that the St. Louis City NAACP recognized and honored individuals they felt had made contributions to the City of St. Louis and the nation, at their June 14th Centennial Celebration and Annual Freedom Fund Dinner. He stated that of the 100 individuals honored, five were members of Harris-Stowe State University, including Chairman Wayman F. Smith III, Regent William Gillespie, Regent Debra Hollingsworth, Dr. George Hyram and himself, Dr. Henry Givens Jr. He added that publisher of the St. Louis American and one of HSSU’s great friends, Dr. Donald Suggs, was honored as the Commitment to St. Louis Awardee. President Givens shared a copy of the printed program.

President Givens reported that the Harris-Stowe State University Alumni Association held its Annual Recognition Luncheon on June 13, 2009. He stated that the luncheon was a very nice program, and that it was encouraging to see younger graduates participate. He further stated that he was glad to see the new Student Representative to the Board, Derek Collins in attendance. He shared copy of the printed program with members of the Board.

President Givens asked Mr. Gooden to report on the HSSU Emergency Manual.

Mr. Gooden reported that following the Virginia Tech University tragedy on April 16, 2007 Governor Blunt established a statewide security campus task force, to which President Givens was appointed. During the task force conferences, experts were brought in from the Virginia tragedy who gave specific details on preventive actions that should be taken on college campuses. The commissioner of Missouri Higher Education, Dr. Robert Stein, developed a Homeland Security Task Force, to which he was appointed and served with the approval of Dr. Givens. Extensive meetings have been held, a major conference is being scheduled in Columbia to pull together students, faculty and staff, to address campus safety. Mr. Gooden also reported that HSSU has established an in-house campus safety committee, and that that committee has developed a policies and procedures manual for emergency situations that may arise. He added that the HSSU Emergency Manual will be provided for administrators, staff and faculty, with additional units for students in the form of flip charts. Mr. Gooden then shared a copy of the manual with members of the Board, and noted that simulated emergency procedures will take place on a monthly basis for each building on Harris-Stowe’s campuses.
Dr. Smith reported on his recent trip to Washington D.C. to attend the National Science Foundation (NSF) conference. He reminded members of the Board that Harris-Stowe had been awarded a $2.5 million NSF implement grant to strengthen the science and mathematics programs. He stated that as principal investigator for the University’s grant, he was required to attend the national meeting to with program officers of various grants in the NSF directorate. He further stated that Dr. Marilyn Suiter, Director of HBCU Undergraduate Programs and Oversight of Grants, paid Harris-Stowe high compliments during the meeting, on its implementation process. Dr. Smith then reported that Harris-Stowe is awaiting a decision on an NSF Target Infusion & Education Research grant. He added that HSSU will submit a proposal for an informal NSF planning grant ($200,000) and an NSF research lab grant which would provide $2.5 million to upgrade labs and supplemental grants for undergraduate student research.

Dr. McClure reported on the summer academic enrichment programs at Harris-Stowe, including the Academy for Math & Science – a five-week science and math summer residential program. She stated that the curriculum would consist of math, science and technical writing and academic preparation for future HSSU scholars. She further reported that the Upward Bound Residential Program which exposes high school students to the rigors of university life, had 52 participants. She stated that the Upward Bound Residential Program was being held June 8-July 10, for 10th and 11th graders, and until August 6 for the Bridge Program high school graduates with students residing in Gillespie Hall throughout the week and leaving on the weekend. Dr. McClure added that the Upward Bound students would be enrolled in Spanish, pre-calculus, trigonometry, social studies, reading and ACT preparation. She then reported on the Education Talent Search program which is a three-week program to expose students to educational activities in the areas of science, theater and business. She added that students will be on campus for a half day, five days per week, with 40 participants ages 12-16. She noted that field trips would include the Federal Reserve Bank. Dr. McClure then noted that Harris-Stowe is pleased to be able to offer these outstanding summer academic enrichment programs.

Dr. McClure reported that Harris-Stowe’s second annual dinner theater would be held on July 16 & 17, featuring a presentation of A Colored Funeral, an original work by Harris-Stowe faculty member Gregory Carr, and, performed by the HSSU players. She stated that the presentation will be held in the Emerson Performance Center. She noted that the play is a humorous satiric, poignant and dramatic view of how death is viewed by the African-American community. She further noted that the play and dinner theater would be held on July 17, but the play only on July 16.

Dr. Zakery reported that Harris-Stowe has established a chapter of the Delta Mu Delta International Honor Society at the Busch School of Business. She stated that she had recently received a letter of congratulations from the national board of directors of the honor society, stating that the HSSU Busch School of Business will be known as Lambda Pi Chapter. She added that the official membership will be designated in fall 2009, at which time, qualified students will be recruited.

Dr. Zakery reported on the application of two grants for the Low-Income Tax Clinic, a community service initiative provided by the Busch School of Business. She stated that with the assistance of faculty member Quentin Davis and Ms. Rochelle Tilghman, Assistant Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs, applications were submitted for grants totaling more than $700,000.
Mrs. Gully gave kudos to Barbara Morrow, HSSU Director of Business Services, on sending out the furnishing bids and for coordinating with the construction schedule for the Early Childhood Development/Parenting Education Center. She stated that Ms. Morrow was able to coordinate this important undertaking while the Business Office was short staffed. She then shared the executive summary of KWAME’s monthly report, which included updates on the new facility’s design, construction, financing and schedule.

Mrs. Gully went over the proposed HSSU 2009-2010 operating budget in detail, with members of the Board of Regents. She reminded Board members that budget attachments were included with the June Board Booklet. She stated that the University’s Budget Planning, Control and Review Committee worked diligently to draft the proposed FY 2009-2010 operating budget of Harris-Stowe State University. She stated that the work of the committee was guided by objectives and assumptions listed on the copy of the formal recommendation that could be found under Tab 8 of the June 2009 Board Booklet.

For the month of June, the Office of Communications, Marketing and Alumni Affairs had no report! Below are scenes from the 5th Annual Recognition Luncheon, held June 13, 2009, at the Frontenac Hilton Hotel.
Picture of the Month: Dr. Givens greets graduates and their families at his annual President’s Reception for Graduates, held in the AT&T Library and Technology Center. Doesn’t he look cheerful, as do the students. They love shaking the President’s hand.